

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please cancel claims 1-12 without prejudice.

1 1.(Cancelled) A transporter to facilitate the movement of a
2 person having impaired or no self-locomotion from a location at a
3 first elevation and location to a higher or lower elevation at a
4 laterally spaced-apart location, comprising:

5 a base having a horizontal orientation and a vertical
6 axis;

7 wheels enabling said base to be moved in said
8 horizontal orientation;

9 a platform having a flat upper surface normal to said
10 axis;

11 a jack mounted to said base below said platform,
12 extending between them so as to enable and power the elevation of
13 the platform relative to the base;

14 a power source to activate said jack;

15 a control to permit actuation of said jack by said
16 power source;

17 said platform being substantially planar and smooth
18 whereby to facilitate the lateral sliding movement of a person
19 resting on it.

1 2. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 1 in which
2 said jack includes a threaded screw having locking

3 characteristics whereby to prevent lowering of the platform
4 except when the screw is positively turned.

1 3. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 1 in which
2 said base includes an axially-extending guide, and said platform
3 includes a downwardly- extending peripheral skirt, whereby to
4 shroud said jack from outside contact.

1 4. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 1 in which
2 said platform includes a removably attached stabilizer to
3 frustrate lateral movement of a person from said platform in at
4 least one direction.

1 5. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 4 in which
2 said stabilizer comprises a post, and a socket in said platform
3 to receive said post.

1 6. Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 1 in which
2 said power source is a bi-directionally driven electric motor.

1 7. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 1 in which
2 there is a plurality of said wheels at least some of which are
3 steerable and lockable.

1 8. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 2 in which
2 said base includes an axially-extending guide, and said platform
3 includes a downwardly- extending peripheral skirt, whereby to
4 shroud said jack from outside contact.

1 9. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 8 in which
2 said platform includes a removably attached stabilizer to
3 frustrate lateral movement of a person from said platform in at
4 least one direction.

1 10. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 9 in which
2 said power source is a bi-directionally driven electric motor.

1 11. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 10 in which
2 there is a plurality of said wheels at least some of which are
3 steerable and lockable.

1 12. (Cancelled) A transporter according to claim 1 in which
2 a pair of lips depend from opposite edges of said platform to
3 provide a hand hold for a transported person.

Please add the following new claims:

1 13. (New) A transporter to facilitate the movement of a
2 person having impaired or no self-locomotion from a location at a
3 first elevation and location to a laterally spaced-apart location
4 at a higher or lower elevation, comprising:

5 a base having a horizontal orientation and a vertical
6 axis;

7 wheels enabling said base to be moved in said
8 horizontal orientation in any lateral direction relative to said
9 vertical axis, said wheels being freely rotatable around axes
10 parallel to said vertical axis and spaced therefrom;

11 a platform having an upper surface normal to said axis
12 said surface being planar, smooth, and devoid of any protrusion
13 above said upper surface;

14 a jack mounted to said base below said platform,
15 extending between them so as to enable and power the selective
16 raising or lowering of the platform relative to the base, said
17 jack including a threaded screw having a locking characteristic,
18 whereby to prevent lowering of the platform by its weight and by
19 its weight combined with a load on it, except when the screw is
20 positively turned;

21 a power source to activate said jack by turning the
22 screw;

23 a control to enable actuation of said jack by said

24 power source,

25 whereby said transporter can be moved adjacent to a place
26 where a person is supported, raised or lowered so as slidably to
27 receive said person, wheeled to another location, then raised or
28 lowered to permit the person to be slid onto another place.

1 14. (New) A transporter according to claim 13 in which said
2 planar surface includes a socket and a removable support, said
3 support being insertable into said socket to limit the sliding
4 movement of a person being slidably moved on said surface.

1 15. (New) A transporter according to claim 13 in which a lip
2 depends below said upper surface, for a person to grasp.

1 16. (New) A transporter according claim 13 in which a
2 peripheral skirt is attached to said platform, extending
3 downwardly to enclose said jack, being movable upwardly and
4 downwardly with said platform to shroud said jack from outside
5 contact.

1 17. (New) A transporter according to claim 16 in which said
2 planar surface includes a socket and a removable support, said
3 support being insertable into said socket to limit the sliding
4 movement of a person being slidably moved on said surface.

1 18. (New) A transporter according to claim 17 in which a
2 lip depends below said upper surface, for a person to grasp.